General Assembly

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12 February 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.53 and Add.1)*]

55/167. Assistance to Mozambique

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolution 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990, 47/42 of 9 December 1992, 49/21 D of 20 December 1994, 51/30 D of 5 December 1996 and 53/1 G of 16 November 1998, in which it urged the international community to respond effectively and generously to the call for assistance to Mozambique,

Reaffirming the principles for humanitarian assistance contained in the annex to its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Recalling its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 of 23 December 1994, 50/82 of 14 December 1995, 51/149 of 13 December 1996 and 52/173 of 18 December 1997 on assistance in mine clearance, and stressing the need to foster the establishment of national mine-clearance capacity with a view to enabling the Government of Mozambique to deal more effectively with the adverse effects of those weapons within the framework of the efforts for national reconstruction,

Recalling also its resolution 54/96 L of 10 March 2000 on assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods,

Deeply concerned at the unprecedented floods in Mozambique, which have resulted in tragic loss of human lives and extensive destruction of property and infrastructure,

Also deeply concerned at the impact of the disaster on the economic, social and humanitarian situation in Mozambique,

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute one of the major problems for the development of Mozambique,

Aware that, to prevent and manage natural disasters, strategies at local, national and regional levels are required, in addition to international assistance,

Bearing in mind the Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations

Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990,[1] and the mutual commitment entered into on that occasion,

Noting with appreciation the mobilization and allocation of resources by States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist national efforts,

Noting with satisfaction the full support by the international community of the post-emergency reconstruction programme presented by the Government of Mozambique at the International Reconstruction Conference for Mozambique, organized by the United Nations Development Programme and the Government of Mozambique, which was held in Rome on 3 and 4 May 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique,[2] and his report on assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique[2] and his report on assistance to Mozambique following the devastating floods;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the assistance rendered to Mozambique by various States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and private individuals and groups to assist national development efforts, and their full support for the post-emergency reconstruction programme presented by the Government of Mozambique at the International Reconstruction Conference for Mozambique;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress made in the consolidation of a lasting peace and tranquillity, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in Mozambique;

4. *Notes* the importance of the International Reconstruction Conference for funding for the reconstruction programme, welcomes the pledges made by the development partners for the post-emergency programme, expresses its gratitude to the development partners that have already disbursed the pledged funds, and urges others to speed up the process;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make all necessary arrangements to continue to mobilize and coordinate, with a view to supporting the efforts of the Government of Mozambique:

(*a*) Humanitarian assistance from the specialized agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(*b*) International assistance for the national reconstruction and development of Mozambique;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to it, for consideration at its fifty-seventh session, under the item on strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance, through the Economic and Social Council at the humanitarian

[1] A/CONF.147/18, part one.
[2] A/55/317.
[3] A/55/123-E/2000/89.

segment of its substantive session in 2002, on the implementation of the present resolution.

85th plenary meeting
14 December 2000

General Assembly

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16 February 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.55/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

55/168. Assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/206 of 20 December 1988, 44/178 of 19 December 1989, 45/229 of 21 December 1990, 46/176 of 19 December 1991, 47/160 of 18 December 1992, 48/201 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 L of 20 December 1994, 50/58 G of 20 December 1995, 51/30 G of 13 December 1996, 52/169 L of 16 December 1997, 53/1 M of 8 December 1998 and 54/96 D of 8 December 1999 as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council on emergency assistance to Somalia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 733 (1992) of 23 January 1992 and all subsequent relevant resolutions, in which the Council, inter alia, urged all parties, movements and factions in Somalia to facilitate the efforts of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and humanitarian organizations to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Somalia, and reiterated the call for the full respect of the security and safety of the personnel of those organizations and guarantee of their complete freedom of movement in and around Mogadishu and other parts of Somalia,

Recalling further the statement by the President of the Security Council of 29 June 2000[1] in which, inter alia, the Security Council expressed its full support for the efforts exerted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to find a political solution to the situation in Somalia, underlined the importance of the widest participation of the representatives of all parts of Somali society, strongly urged representatives of all social and political forces of Somali society to participate actively, urged the warlords and faction leaders to desist from obstructing and undermining efforts to achieve peace, and also urged all States to stop providing those individuals with the means to carry on their destructive activities,

Noting the cooperation between the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

[1] S/PRST/2000/22; see *Resolutions and Decisions of the Security Council, 2000*.

and others in their efforts to resolve the humanitarian, security and political crisis in Somalia,

Noting with appreciation the continued efforts made by the Secretary-General to assist the Somali people in their efforts to promote peace, stability and national reconciliation,

Commending the initiative of the President of the Republic of Djibouti aiming at restoring peace and stability in Somalia, and noting with appreciation the efforts of the Government and people of Djibouti in hosting and facilitating the Somalia National Peace Conference, held in Arta, Republic of Djibouti,

Welcoming the outcome of the Arta peace process, led by Djibouti and sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which provides for the establishment of a transitional national parliament and the formation of a transitional national government,

Noting with appreciation that the mandate provided in the three-year transitional national charter emphasizes priorities, including reconciliation, demobilization of armed militia, restitution of properties to their lawful owners, holding of a national census, formulation of a new constitution, democratization, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction,

Welcoming the efforts of the transitional Government of Somalia to promote national reconciliation within Somalia, recognizing that progress has been achieved in some regions in re-establishing economic and administrative stability and encouraging the peaceful cooperation of all political groups with the new transitional Government towards this end,

Noting with concern that the lack of effective civil institutions in Somalia continues to impede sustained comprehensive development and that, while the environment has become more conducive to some reconstruction and development-oriented work in certain parts of the country, the humanitarian and security situation has remained fragile in other parts,

Reaffirming its support for the joint strategy for targeted assistance of the United Nations system that is focused on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure and on sustainable community-based activities, as well as for the importance it attaches to the need for effective coordination and cooperation among the United Nations agencies and their partners,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States and relevant organizations to alleviate the hardship and suffering of the affected Somali population,

Recognizing that, while the humanitarian situation remains fragile in some parts of Somalia, there is a need to continue the ongoing rehabilitation and reconstruction process alongside the national reconciliation process, without prejudice to the provision of emergency relief assistance wherever and whenever required, as security allows,

Noting with appreciation that the prospects for humanitarian, rehabilitation and development activities have been more favourable in some parts of the country,

[2] A/55/415.

owing to the formation of stronger administrative structures, the commitment shown to re-establishing the rule of law in general, and the leadership shown by some regional authorities and by civil society groups in attempting to establish an inclusive alternative to the faction-ridden past of Somalia,

Noting with appreciation also the efforts of the United Nations system aimed at working directly with Somali communities at the local level, whenever possible, and emphasizing the need for coordination with the transitional Government and with local and regional authorities,

Welcoming the continued focus of the United Nations, in partnership with Somali elders, other local leaders and skilled local counterparts at the grass-roots level and non-governmental organizations, on a programme of assistance, including both humanitarian and developmental approaches, given the varying conditions in different areas,

Re-emphasizing the importance of the further implementation of its resolution 47/160 to rehabilitate basic social and economic services at the local and regional levels throughout the country,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have responded to the appeals of the Secretary-General and others by extending assistance to Somalia;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continued and tireless efforts to mobilize assistance to the Somali people;

3. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the countries members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and its Partners Forum, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and others to resolve the situation in Somalia;

4. *Also welcomes* the strategy of the United Nations focusing on the implementation of community-based interventions aimed at rebuilding local infrastructures and increasing the self-reliance of the local population, and the ongoing efforts by the United Nations agencies, their Somali counterparts and their partner organizations to establish and maintain close coordination and cooperation mechanisms available for the implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the holistic and prioritized approach of the United Nations system to addressing the continuing crisis in some parts of Somalia, while making long-term commitments to rehabilitation, recovery and development activities in more stable parts;

6. *Emphasizes* the principle that the Somali people have the primary responsibility for their own development and for the sustainability of rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance programmes, and reaffirms the importance it attaches to the creation of workable arrangements for collaboration between the United Nations system and its partner organizations and their Somali counterparts for the effective execution of rehabilitation and development activities in those parts of the country in which peace and security prevail;

7. *Urges* all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to implement further its resolution 47/160 in

order to assist the Somali people in embarking on the rehabilitation of basic social and economic services, as well as institution-building aimed at the restoration of civil administration at all levels in all parts of the country in which peace and security prevail;

8. *Strongly urges* all political groups in Somalia, in particular those which have remained outside the Arta peace process, to participate in the ongoing peace process and to establish a constructive dialogue with the new transitional Government, in order to achieve national reconciliation that allows for transition from relief to reconstruction and development and preserves economic and administrative progress achieved in many regions;

9. *Calls upon* all parties, individual political leaders and factions in Somalia to respect fully the security and safety of personnel of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations, and to guarantee their complete freedom of movement and safe access throughout Somalia;

10. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize international humanitarian, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to provide continuing and increased assistance in response to the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance for Somalia, covering the period from October 2000 to December 2001;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation in Somalia, to take all necessary measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

85th plenary meeting
14 December 2000

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.57 and Add.1)*]

55/169. Humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, and reaffirming that humanitarian assistance should be provided in accordance with the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also its resolution 54/96 F of 15 December 1999,

Deeply appreciative of the humanitarian assistance and the rehabilitation support rendered by a number of States, in particular major contributors, international agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in particular emergency assistance packages provided by the European Union, participants in the FOCUS humanitarian relief initiative and other countries,

Deeply concerned about the continuing urgency of the humanitarian situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, aware of the magnitude of the humanitarian requirements of the country, and recognizing the need to ensure effective links between relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Aware of the persisting gravity of the situation of socially and economically vulnerable segments of the population, including refugees and displaced persons, coupled with significantly decreased social services capacity, especially in the health sector,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Taking note also of the report prepared by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in Belgrade entitled "Background on the Energy Sector in Serbia for Winter 2000–2001",[2]

[1] A/55/416.
[2] See www.reliefweb.int.

Recognizing the role of the United Nations in solving the humanitarian problems facing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in coordinating the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the country,

Welcoming the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe on 26 October 2000,

Welcoming also the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to membership in the United Nations on 1 November 2000,

1. *Calls upon* all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the humanitarian needs of the affected population in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, especially during the coming winter months, bearing in mind in particular the special situation of women, as well as children and other vulnerable groups;

2. *Also calls upon* all States, regional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies to offer support to the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its efforts to ensure the transition from relief to the longer-term goals of rehabilitation, reconstruction and development of the country;

3. *Welcomes* the commitment of, and encourages the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to continue to cooperate with the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to address the humanitarian needs of the affected population, including refugees and internally displaced persons, and urges the relevant authorities and the international community to support programmes to ensure that the humanitarian needs of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are met and to pursue durable solutions to their plight, in particular voluntary repatriation and reintegration, stresses the need to create conditions conducive to their safe return, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of regional cooperation in the search for solutions to the plight of refugees;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize the timely provision of international humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, inter alia, through the mechanisms of a consolidated inter-agency appeal, and recognizes in this regard especially the role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;

6. *Requests* the United Nations and the specialized agencies to continue their efforts to assess the humanitarian needs, in cooperation with the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, relevant international and regional organizations and bodies and interested States, with a view to ensuring effective links between relief and longer-term assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, taking into account the work already carried out in this field and the need to avoid duplication and the overlapping of efforts;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

85th plenary meeting
14 December 2000

General Assembly

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16 February 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.59 and Add.1)*]

55/170. Economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/96 G of 15 December 1999,

Recalling also the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, adopted in Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999, and endorsed at the Sarajevo Summit of 30 July 1999, and emphasizing the crucial importance of its implementation,

Stressing the importance of the regional cooperation initiatives, assistance arrangements and organizations, such as the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royaumont Initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the Danube Commission,

Noting the leading role played by the high-level steering group for South-Eastern Europe, under the joint chairmanship of the European Commission and the World Bank, in guiding the donor coordination process for the economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development of the region, in close cooperation with the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe,

Mindful of the positive results of the regional funding conference for South-Eastern Europe organized by the European Commission and the World Bank, held in Brussels on 29 and 30 March 2000, and of the progress achieved in mobilizing and coordinating support of the donor community and international financial institutions for reconstruction and development efforts in South-Eastern Europe,

Welcoming the democratic changes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and their positive effects on peace, stability and development in South-Eastern Europe,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on economic assistance to the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans and the conclusions contained therein,[1]

[1] A/55/620 and Corr.1.

1. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of special economic problems confronting the Eastern European States affected by the developments in the Balkans, in particular their impact on regional trade and economic relations and on the navigation along the Danube and on the Adriatic Sea;

2. *Welcomes* the support already provided by the international community, in particular by the European Union and other major donors, to the affected States to assist them in coping with their special economic problems during the transition period following the developments in the Balkans, as well as in the longer-term process of economic recovery, structural adjustment and development in the region;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the effective implementation of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, the objective of which is to strengthen countries in South-Eastern Europe in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity, in order to achieve stability in the whole region, and welcomes its follow-up activities, aimed, inter alia, at economic reconstruction, development and cooperation, including economic cooperation in the region and between the region and the rest of Europe;

4. *Invites* all States and the relevant international organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, in particular the international financial institutions, to continue to take into account the special needs and situations of the affected States in providing support and assistance to their efforts for economic recovery, structural adjustment and development;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of a well-coordinated and timely donor response to the external funding requirements of the process for economic reconstruction, stabilization, reform and development in the Balkans, as well as financial support to other affected countries of Eastern Europe;

6. *Encourages* the affected States of the region to continue and enhance the process of multilateral regional cooperation in the fields of transport and infrastructure development, including the resumption of navigation on the Danube, as well as to foster conditions favourable to trade, investment and private sector development in all the countries of the region;

7. *Invites* the relevant international organizations to take appropriate steps, consistent with the principle of efficient and effective procurement and with the agreed measures for procurement reform, in order to broaden access for interested local and regional vendors and to facilitate their participation in the international assistance efforts for reconstruction, recovery and development of the region;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.60 and Add.1)*]

55/171. Closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992, 48/206 of 21 December 1993, 50/134 of 20 December 1995, 52/172 of 16 December 1997 and 54/97 of 8 December 1999,

Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences in the affected countries,

Appreciative of the efforts made by the organizations of the United Nations system and Member States to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular, the contributions of the members of the Group of Seven and the European Union and others to the Shelter Implementation Plan aimed at securing the environmental safety of the sarcophagus covering the destroyed Chernobyl reactor in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Governments of the members of the Group of Seven and the Commission of the European Communities and the Government of Ukraine,

Noting with concern the gravity of economic and social problems arising for Ukraine as a result of the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant,

1. *Welcomes* the decision of Ukraine to close the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on 15 December 2000;

2. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist the Government of Ukraine in coping with the range of newly emerging economic and social problems arising as a result of the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant;

3. *Invites* all States and the relevant international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide support to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as the most affected countries, in mitigating and minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.65 and Add.1)*]

55/172. Assistance for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development for East Timor

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its relevant resolutions on the situation in East Timor, in particular resolutions 54/96 H of 15 December 1999 and 54/194 of 17 December 1999,

Recalling also its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling further all of the relevant Security Council resolutions and decisions on the situation in East Timor, in particular resolutions 1272 (1999) of 25 October 1999 and 1319 (2000) of 8 September 2000,

Recalling the establishment by Security Council resolution 1272 (1999) of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, whose mandate includes the coordination and delivery of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development assistance,

Welcoming the response of the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, with the coordination of the Transitional Administration since 1 January 2000, and in cooperation with the East Timorese people, in terms of addressing the humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development needs of East Timor,

Acknowledging the progress made in the transition from relief to development in East Timor and, in this regard, the important role played by the Transitional Administration in supporting the resilient and determined efforts of the East Timorese people themselves,

Welcoming the progress that has been made in alleviating the humanitarian assistance needs of East Timor, while noting continuing requirements for food and shelter assistance,

Welcoming also the efforts of the Government of Indonesia and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to the East Timorese refugees in the province of East Nusa Tenggara, West Timor, and in this respect recognizing the importance of the international

community in assisting the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to implement resettlement and repatriation programmes of East Timorese refugees,

Emphasizing the need for continued international assistance to East Timor to support the transition from relief and rehabilitation to development, in preparation for independence, and recognizing the significant challenges that are to be faced in this regard, inter alia, in the education, health, agriculture and infrastructure sectors,

Deploring the killing of three personnel of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at Atambua on 6 September 2000, which resulted in the withdrawal from West Timor of United Nations and other international humanitarian personnel, and welcoming in this respect the steps taken by the Government of Indonesia towards conducting a full-scale investigation, taking firm measures against those found guilty and ensuring a safe and secure environment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Encourages* the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, with the coordination of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, and in close consultation and cooperation with the East Timorese people, to continue to collaborate to address the remaining humanitarian relief needs of East Timor, and to support the transition from relief and rehabilitation to development in preparation for independence;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of continuing close consultation with and participation of East Timorese institutions and civil society, including local non-governmental organizations, in the planning and delivery of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development assistance to East Timor;

4. *Welcomes* the establishment of the East Timor National Council as an interim step towards a democratic legislative institution as well as the appointment of a joint cabinet to increase Timorese participation in the Administration;

5. *Urges* United Nations organizations, the international community and non-governmental organizations to continue their efforts aimed at the enhanced ownership and participation of the East Timorese, known as "Timorization" in East Timor, of the social, economic and administrative infrastructure, and in this regard stresses the need for capacity-building, inter alia, in areas such as education, health, agriculture and rural development, the judiciary, governance and public administration, security and law and order;

6. *Commends* Member States for their prompt response to the United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for the East Timor crises, which was launched on 27 October 1999, and urges Member States to fulfil their pledges to meet the external financing requirements for humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and development activities for East Timor;

7. *Welcomes* in this regard the convening of the Donors Meetings for East Timor in Tokyo on 16 and 17 December 1999, and in Lisbon on 22 and 23 June 2000, as well as the meeting in Brussels on 5 and 6 December 2000 which focused on the transition towards independence in East Timor in four key areas: political, public administration, public finances, and economic and social reconstruction;

[1] A/55/418.

8. *Encourages* continued international support in all sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, health and education to assist the efforts of East Timor towards sustainable development, particularly in its transition to independence;

9. *Welcomes* the immediate response to food aid needs by the international community, urges it to continue to ensure food security for the remaining vulnerable groups in need, and calls upon the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to assist the East Timorese in ensuring sustainable development in the areas of agriculture, livestock and fisheries;

10. *Recommends* that outstanding infrastructure needs remain an essential focus of international assistance in such areas as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of public buildings, educational facilities, roads and public services;

11. *Commends* the rapid international response in terms of providing health services to the general population, including the early deployment of immunization and disease prevention programmes, and reproductive health care and child nutrition programmes, while recognizing the need for further assistance to rebuild hospitals and for training health-care professionals;

12. *Welcomes* the ongoing reopening of schools, the supply and distribution of education materials, and teacher training, while emphasizing the need for capacity-building, particularly in the area of secondary and higher education, and for continued attention to the rehabilitation needs, including psychosocial support, of children affected by the violence;

13. *Stresses* the urgent need for sustained and enhanced efforts by the Government of Indonesia, the Transitional Administration and the international community effectively and comprehensively to resolve the question of the East Timorese refugees by the repatriation or resettlement of all those refugees, in conditions of safety and security at all stages, and based on their voluntary decisions, through the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to guarantee effective security in the West Timor camps, by the promotion of a credible and internationally observed registration process, and by the promotion of and support for reconciliation among all East Timorese;

14. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Government of Indonesia, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and other humanitarian organizations, to facilitate organized and spontaneous returns of East Timorese refugees from West Timor, including the repatriation of the former Indonesian military reservists known as Milsas, and underscores the importance of continued international assistance to support the efforts of the Government of Indonesia and relevant organizations to meet the needs of East Timorese refugees in West Timor, inter alia, by assisting their voluntary repatriation or resettlement;

15. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and assistance to all those in need and to ensure the safety and security of all humanitarian personnel in West Timor, recognizes in this regard the steps taken and the efforts being made by the Government of Indonesia to implement Security Council resolution 1319 (2000), such as the ongoing disarming and disbanding of the militias, the deploying of additional security apparatus and the bringing to justice of those found guilty, and calls upon the Government to continue to

strengthen such efforts in full cooperation with Member States, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations;

16. *Urges* the United Nations to continue to address the humanitarian, rehabilitation and development needs of East Timor;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

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Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 20 *(c)*

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.63 and Add.1)*]

55/173. Assistance to the Palestinian people

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/116 of 15 December 1999,

Recalling also previous resolutions on the question,

Welcoming the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, between the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,[1] as well as the signing of the subsequent implementation agreements, including the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in Washington, D.C., on 28 September 1995,[2] and the signing of the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum on 4 September 1999,

Gravely concerned about the difficult economic and employment conditions facing the Palestinian people throughout the occupied territory,

Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the occupied territory and the living conditions of the Palestinian people,

Aware that development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

Noting the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

Noting the convening of the United Nations seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people, entitled "Prospects for Palestinian economic development and the Middle East peace process",[3] held in Cairo on 20 and 21 June 2000,

Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the

[1] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.
[2] A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex.
[3] A/55/144-E/2000/87, annex.

Palestinian people, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration,

Noting the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the work being done by the World Bank as its secretariat, as well as the establishment of the Consultative Group,

Welcoming also the work of the Joint Liaison Committee, which provides a forum in which economic policy and practical matters related to donor assistance are discussed with the Palestinian Authority,

Welcoming further the results of the Ministerial Conference to Support Middle East Peace and Development, held in Washington, D.C., on 30 November 1998, and expressing appreciation for the pledges of the international donor community,

Welcoming the meeting of the Consultative Group in Frankfurt, Germany, on 4 and 5 February 1999, in particular the pledges of the international donor community and the presentation of the Palestinian Development Plan for the years 1999–2003,

Welcoming also the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee held in Lisbon on 7 and 8 June 2000,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

Expressing grave concern over the continuation of the recent tragic and violent events that have led to many deaths and injuries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

4. *Stresses* the importance of the work of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority and of the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the occupied territories;

5. *Urges* Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people, in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

[4] A/55/137-E/2000/95.

6. *Calls upon* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with Palestinian priorities set forth by the Palestinian Authority, with emphasis on national execution and capacity-building;

7. *Urges* Member States to open their markets to exports of Palestinian products on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules, and to implement fully existing trade and cooperation agreements;

8. *Calls upon* the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

9. *Stresses* in this context the importance of ensuring the free passage of aid to the Palestinian people and the free movement of persons and goods;

10. *Urges* the international donor community, United Nations agencies and organizations and non-governmental organizations to extend as rapidly as possible emergency economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people to counter the impact of the current crisis;

11. *Stresses* the need to implement the Paris Protocol on Economic Relations of 29 April 1994, fifth annex to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,[5] in particular with regard to the full and prompt clearance of Palestinian indirect tax revenues;

12. *Suggests* the convening in 2001 of a United Nations-sponsored seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

(*a*) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

(*b*) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", the sub-item entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people".

85th plenary meeting
14 December 2000

[5] See A/51/889-S/1997/357, annex.

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55/174. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

A

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/195 B of 17 December 1996, 52/211 B of 19 December 1997, 53/203 A of 18 December 1998 and 54/189 A of 17 December 1999,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1193 (1998) of 28 August 1998, 1214 (1998) of 8 December 1998 and 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and all statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan,

Noting all recent declarations by participants of regional international meetings and by international organizations on the situation in Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its continued strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universally recognized and impartial intermediary, must continue to play its central role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict, and expressing its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts made in this regard by the Secretary-General, by his Personal Representative and by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan,

Convinced that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict and that only a political settlement aimed at the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government acceptable to the Afghan people can lead to peace and reconciliation,

Stressing the importance of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and deeply concerned at all forms of continued external support, which is causing the prolongation and intensification of the conflict,

Expressing its grave concern at the failure of all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to put an end to the conflict, which seriously threatens stability and peace in the region, despite the repeated demands by the Security Council to the warring sides to desist from fighting,

Strongly condemning the resumption of major offensives by the Taliban in summer 2000, especially in the Taloqan area, and the resulting negative humanitarian consequences, including the loss of human life, the deliberate abuse, indiscriminate bombing and arbitrary detention of civilians, refugee flows, the recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, harassment, the forcible displacement of innocent civilians, in particular of women and children, in the Shomali Plains and north-eastern Afghanistan, and the indiscriminate destruction of their homes and agricultural land, thereby eliminating their source of income,

Expressing its grave concern at persistent violations of human rights and at breaches of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan as well as at the continuing and substantiated reports of systematic human rights violations against women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban,

Expressing concern at the growing spread of the Afghan conflict beyond its borders and at actions undermining the security of States' frontiers,

Deeply disturbed by the continuing use of Afghan territory in areas controlled by the Taliban for the recruitment, sheltering and training of terrorists, including international terrorists, and the planning of terrorist acts within and outside Afghanistan,

Deeply disturbed also by the continuing use of Afghan territory, especially areas controlled by the Taliban, for the continuing cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, which contribute to the war-making capabilities of the Afghans and have dangerous repercussions reaching Afghanistan's neighbours and far beyond,

Welcoming the written agreement communicated by the Taliban and the United Front in separate letters dated 30 October 2000[1] to enter into a process of dialogue, without preconditions and under the good offices of the Secretary-General or his Personal Representative, aimed at achieving a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan,

Stressing that a lasting cessation of hostilities is essential for meaningful dialogue, and welcoming in particular the stated commitment of the two sides to negotiate with serious intent and in good faith and not to abandon the process unilaterally until the negotiating agenda is exhausted,

Welcoming the high-level meetings of the "six plus two" group, held at United Nations Headquarters in September and November 2000, and the active role played by the group, leading, inter alia, to the adoption of a regional action plan aimed at eliminating illicit drug production and trafficking in Afghanistan,

[1] A/55/548-S/2000/1077, annexes.

Welcoming also the contacts between the Special Mission and various non-warring Afghan parties and personalities, and supporting calls by these independent Afghans for an end to the fighting and any proposals that might advance the cause of peace, including the efforts of independent Afghan personalities, many of whom support the proposal of the former King of Afghanistan, Zahir Shah, for the convening of a *loya jirgah* to promote a political settlement,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in support of and in coordination with the United Nations, to facilitate the convening of talks between the two Afghan parties, held in Jeddah in March and May 2000,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Stresses* that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lies with the Afghan parties, and urges all of them to respond to the repeated calls for peace by the United Nations;

3. *Reiterates its position* that the United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict, and reaffirms its full support for the efforts of the United Nations in facilitating the political process towards the goal of national reconciliation and a lasting political settlement with the participation of all parties to the conflict and all segments of Afghan society;

4. *Urges* the Taliban and the United Front to honour the written agreement communicated to the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in separate letters dated 30 October 2000[1] to enter into a process of dialogue, without preconditions and under the good offices of the Secretary-General or his Personal Representative, aimed at achieving a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan;

5. *Calls upon* the Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to cease immediately all armed hostilities, to renounce the use of force and to pursue without delay the political dialogue under United Nations auspices aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict, leading to the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government which would protect the rights of all Afghans and observe the international obligations of Afghanistan;

6. *Strongly urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to refrain from all acts of violence against civilians, in particular women and children;

7. *Strongly condemns* the resumption of major hostilities by the Taliban starting in July 2000, and strongly calls upon all Afghan parties to end all armed hostilities and not to pursue a military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan;

8. *Notes with alarm* reports indicating that a significant number of non-Afghan personnel, mainly on the side of the Taliban forces and largely from religious schools, are actively involved in various military activities;

9. *Strongly condemns* the fact that foreign military support to the Afghan parties continued unabated through 2000, and calls upon all States to refrain strictly from any outside interference and to end immediately the supply of arms,

[2] A/55/633-S/2000/1106.

ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan;

10. *Calls upon* all States to take resolute measures to prohibit their military personnel from planning and participating in combat operations in Afghanistan and immediately to withdraw their personnel, and to assure that the supply of ammunition and other war-making materials is halted;

11. *Supports* the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan with a view to assuring its primary role in United Nations peacemaking activities in Afghanistan, especially by the resumption of a dialogue between the Afghan parties through a negotiating process based on a comprehensive agenda to be agreed by the two sides that addresses the core problems of the Afghan situation and leads to a durable ceasefire and the formation of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government;

12. *Also supports* the continuing cooperation of the Special Mission with all countries that are willing to help find a peaceful solution to the Afghan conflict, in particular with the members of the "six plus two" group, while continuing to monitor closely and to encourage the various peace initiatives of non-warring Afghan parties and personalities;

13. *Welcomes* the deployment of the Civil Affairs Unit of the Special Mission to Faizabad, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar and Mazar-e Sharif and its ongoing dialogue on political and human rights issues with high-ranking representatives of the local and regional authorities of both Afghan sides, and supports the intention of the Secretary-General to strengthen the political capacity of the Special Mission and increase the number of military advisers from two to four;

14. *Supports* the activities of groups of interested States to coordinate their efforts as well as the activities of international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and encourages these organizations and States, in particular the "six plus two" group, to use their influence in a constructive manner in support of and in close coordination with the United Nations to promote peace in Afghanistan;

15. *Encourages* the international community to support the Afghan people in their right to express themselves on their main needs and their future through democratic or traditional means by developing a framework for institution and capacity-building that could lead to the eventual structure for a broad-based government;

16. *Calls upon* all signatories to the Tashkent Declaration on Fundamental Principles for a Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict in Afghanistan[3] and the Afghan parties to implement the principles contained in that Declaration in support of the efforts of the United Nations towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict, in particular the agreement not to provide military support to any Afghan party and to prevent the use of their territories for such purposes, and recalls their appeal to the international community to take identical measures to prevent the delivery of weapons to Afghanistan;

17. *Strongly condemns* the armed attacks on and the killing of United Nations and other humanitarian personnel, strongly calls upon the Taliban to fulfil their

[3] A/54/174-S/1999/812, annex.

stated commitment to cooperate in urgent investigations of these heinous crimes with a view to bringing those responsible to justice, and urges all Afghan parties to demonstrate their full commitment to the safety and security of all United Nations and other humanitarian personnel so as to facilitate their continued work in support of the affected population;

18. *Reiterates its strong condemnation* of the killing of the diplomatic and consular staff of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e Sharif and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency in August 1998, stresses that these unacceptable acts which constitute flagrant violations of established international law must not go unpunished, expresses deep concern at the lack of progress in the Taliban investigation of the murders, and once again urges the Taliban to carry out, without further delay, a credible investigation with a view to prosecuting the guilty parties and to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations about the results thereof;

19. *Strongly condemns* the widespread violations and abuses of human rights, including summary executions and an alleged mass killing of detainees in Samangan in May 2000, and strongly urges all Afghan parties to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of persons, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion;

20. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to bring an end without delay to all violations of human rights and discriminatory policies against women and girls and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of men and women, especially in the fields of education, work and equal health care;

21. *Condemns* the continuing widespread violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, and urgently calls upon all Afghan parties to respect strictly all its provisions that provide essential protection for the civilian population in armed conflicts;

22. *Reiterates its concerns* that the continuing conflict in Afghanistan poses a growing risk to peace and stability in the region;

23. *Condemns* the acts of terrorists based in Afghanistan, including those in support of extremist groups operating against the interests of Member States and against their citizens, and strongly demands that in particular the Taliban refrain from providing safe haven to international terrorists and their organizations, cease the recruitment of terrorists, close down terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan, take effective measures to ensure that the territory under its control is not used to sponsor international terrorist operations and take the necessary steps to cooperate with efforts to bring indicted terrorists to justice without delay;

24. *Strongly urges* the Taliban to comply without preconditions and without further delay with its obligations under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) and other relevant resolutions;

25. *Reiterates its call* to all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to halt all illegal drug activities and to support international efforts to ban illicit drug production and trafficking, and calls upon all Member States and all parties concerned to undertake concerted measures to stop the trafficking of illegal drugs from Afghanistan;

26. *Notes with interest* in this regard the decree issued by the Taliban in July 2000 imposing a total ban on opium poppy cultivation, and calls upon the Taliban to implement fully this decree;

27. *Notes* the severe impact of illicit drug production and trafficking on Afghanistan's immediate neighbours, and calls for further international cooperation in support of the efforts of the neighbouring States to stop the trafficking of illegal drugs from Afghanistan and to cope with its adverse social and economic consequences;

28. *Requests* the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to continue its crop monitoring work inside Afghanistan, within the context of the United Nations common programme and, with particular regard to assessing the impact of the July 2000 decree, to consider enlarging its alternative development work there should the assessment show significant implementation of the decree, and further to develop international measures against drug trafficking;

29. *Calls upon* the international community to continue providing financial resources to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for the implementation of the above activities;

30. *Reiterates* that the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan belong to the common heritage of humankind, calls upon all Afghan parties to protect the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan from acts of vandalism, damage and theft, and requests all Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the looting of cultural artefacts and to ensure their return to Afghanistan;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every four months during its fifty-fifth session on the progress of the Special Mission and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

86th plenary meeting
19 December 2000

B

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/195 A of 17 December 1996, 52/211 A of 19 December 1997, 53/203 B of 18 December 1998 and 54/189 B of 17 December 1999,

Expressing its grave concern about the continuation of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, threatening regional peace and security and causing massive loss of life and extensive human suffering, further destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people, as well as the failure of all warring parties, in particular the Taliban, to stop the fighting,

Noting with deep concern the worst drought for decades, which affects large parts of Afghanistan and risks dramatically exacerbating the already fragile humanitarian situation,

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance as well as the continued laying of new anti-personnel landmines in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons from returning to their villages and working in their fields,

Noting with deep concern that the majority of the Afghan people are unable to enjoy fully their human rights and fundamental freedoms owing to the accumulated effects of warfare, further aggravated by ongoing fighting and destruction, in particular by the Taliban, searing poverty, profound underdevelopment, and the policies and practices of the authorities,

Expressing its grave concern at the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in particular by the Taliban, in Afghanistan and at the inadequacy of measures taken by the warring factions to reverse the situation,

Deeply concerned by the continuing and substantiated reports of violations of human rights, in particular of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban,

Welcoming the ongoing work of gender and human rights advisers appointed by the United Nations, who form an integral part of the office of the United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,[4]

Noting with alarm that the resumption of fighting by the Taliban during the past summer led to further displacement of civilian populations, especially in the provinces of Baghlan and Takhar,

Expressing its grave concern for the well-being of internally displaced persons and other vulnerable sections of the civilian population, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods as a result of the drought and the recent fighting, as well as the repeated denial by the warring factions of adequate conditions for the delivery of aid by humanitarian organizations,

Affirming the urgent need to continue international humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan for the restoration of basic services, as well as the need for the conflicting parties to guarantee the safety and security of the personnel of all international organizations,

Welcoming the principle-centred approach towards humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation in Afghanistan, as outlined in the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, and the consolidated appeals as tools to promote greater effectiveness and coherence in international aid programmes, and welcoming also the establishment of the independent strategic monitoring unit,

Deeply disturbed by the continuing security threat to United Nations personnel and other humanitarian personnel, including locally engaged staff, and by the fact

[4] E/CN.4/2000/68/Add.4.

that the authorities continue to limit their access to affected populations in certain areas,

Noting with deep concern the substantial restrictions introduced by the Taliban authorities on the operations of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that provide humanitarian, economic rehabilitation and development assistance in Afghanistan, and noting in particular the negative impact these restrictions have on the provision of assistance to groups in need of special protection, especially women and children,

Noting with deep concern also that a significant number of Afghan refugees remain in neighbouring countries, as conditions in many parts of Afghanistan are currently not conducive to a safe and sustainable return, and acknowledging that those refugees constitute a continuing socio-economic burden for the host countries,

Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular those of neighbouring countries that continue to host Afghan refugee populations, and at the same time again calling upon all parties to continue to honour their obligations for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and to allow international access for their protection and care,

Recognizing the need for continuing international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, and welcoming the voluntary return of refugees to rural districts in Afghanistan that are relatively stable and secure and not severely affected by the drought,

Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system, and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively, and continue to respond, where conditions permit, to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General, and endorses the observations contained therein;[5]

2. *Stresses* that the responsibility for the humanitarian crisis lies with all warring parties, in particular with the Taliban;

3. *Strongly condemns* the resumption of major fighting by the Taliban during the past summer, especially in the Taloqan area and the Shomali Plains, resulting in further forcible displacement of civilian populations and destruction of infrastructure;

4. *Notes with alarm* numerous reports of the Taliban troops deliberately destroying, burning and looting homes and assets of civilians essential for their survival in the battle zones;

5. *Urges* all parties, in particular the Taliban, to end immediately all armed hostilities, and calls upon the leaders of all Afghan parties to place the highest priority on national reconciliation, acknowledging the desire of the Afghan people for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic and social development;

6. *Calls upon* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely their humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan on the

[5] A/55/348.

basis of the principles laid out in the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, in particular to assure a consistent approach to the implementation of these principles, human rights and security, and appeals to donor countries as well as other humanitarian organizations to cooperate closely within the framework of the United Nations, taking into account the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to Afghanistan for 2001;

7. *Strongly condemns* the killing of seven Afghan employees of the United Nations-supported mine awareness programme by unidentified gunmen, as well as recent acts of violence and intimidation against United Nations personnel and offices;

8. *Urges* all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to respect international humanitarian law, to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel as well as their safe and unimpeded access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, so as to facilitate their work;

9. *Calls upon* the Taliban authorities to implement fully the Supplementary Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding of 13 May 1998, signed by the United Nations and the Taliban, on the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan;

10. *Demands* that all Afghan parties cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other agencies and humanitarian organizations in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan;

11. *Condemns* all interference in the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies, and demands the secure and uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to all in need of it, especially in the Panjshir valley;

12. *Strongly condemns* substantial restrictions introduced by the Taliban authorities on the operations of the United Nations, in particular the recent decree of law banning the employment of Afghan women in the United Nations and non-governmental programmes, except in the health sector;

13. *Calls upon* the Taliban authorities to cooperate fully and without discrimination on grounds of gender, nationality or religion with the United Nations and associated bodies and with other humanitarian organizations, agencies and non-governmental organizations;

14. *Denounces* the continuing discrimination against girls and women as well as ethnic and religious groups, including minorities, and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, notably in areas under the control of the Taliban, notes with deep concern their adverse effects on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan, and calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments, inter alia, the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] and to refrain from all attempts to single out minorities;

15. *Strongly urges* all the Afghan parties to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of women and men,

[6] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

including their rights to full and equal participation in the life of the country, freedom of movement, access to education and health facilities, employment outside the home, personal security and freedom from intimidation and harassment, in particular with respect to the implications of discriminatory policies for the distribution of aid, notwithstanding some progress made with respect to access to education and health care for girls and women;

16. *Urges* all Afghan parties to prohibit conscripting or enlisting children or using them to participate in hostilities in violation of the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict;[7]

17. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates a gender perspective, that it actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and that women benefit equally with men from such assistance;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, appeals to the Governments concerned to reaffirm their commitment to international refugee law on the rights of asylum and protection, and calls upon the international community to do likewise;

19. *Recognizes* the high number of refugees in neighbouring countries, and calls upon the international community to consider providing further assistance to Afghan refugees;

20. *Expresses concern* over the continued laying of anti-personnel landmines, which continues to take a heavy toll on civilians and seriously impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and urges all Afghan parties to call a complete halt to the use of landmines, as well as to fulfil their duties to cooperate with the United Nations mine action programme and to protect their personnel;

21. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, when conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population, especially in the areas most affected by the drought, and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

22. *Calls upon* the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan, launched by the Secretary-General on 29 November 2000 for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2001, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

[7] Resolution 54/263, annex I.

24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the sub-item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

86th plenary meeting
19 December 2000